

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
ACONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE 9784
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4048

LONDON FOR SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

PARAMARIBO FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG US UN SF WA
SUBJ: SWAPO'S CONCERN ABOUT SA ASSISTANCE TO TURNHALLE

REF: USUN 2554

1. THE FIVE AMBASSADORS/CHARGES MET TODAY, AUGUST 11,
IN RESPONSE TO USUN 2554 ON SWAPO'S CONCERN ABOUT (1)
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SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF
TURNHALLE AND (2) THE FORMATION OF ETHNIC NAMIBIAN MILITARY
UNITS. THEY AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMENTARY AND
RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT OF THE
TURNHALLE GROUP AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF ITS CURRENT

POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED WITH THE SAG BY THE FRENCH CHARGE. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, AND ACTING "IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INITIATIVE OF THE CONTACT GROUP" (CG) AND SAYING HIS DEMARCHE DID NOT EXCLUDE A FURTHER APPROACH BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE, THE FRENCH CHARGE SPOKE TO SENIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN, AUGUST 10, POINTING OUT THAT THE "REPORT-BACK" MISSION TO OVAMBOLAND OF A GROUP OF TURNHALLE DELEGATES (PRETORIA 3893) HAS ALL THE APPEARANCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN-SUPPORTED POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING. THE TASK OF THE CG, PARTICULARLY THE EFFORT TO SECURE THE COOPERATION OF SWAPO, HAS THEREBY BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED. IN RESPONSE, VAN DALSEN SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE DEMARCHE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. AS NOTED BY THE CG, THE SAG CAN BE EXPECTED TO INSIST THAT NO EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE IS BEING GIVEN TO THE TURNHALLE GROUP AND THAT IN ANY EVENT SWAPO IS WELL SUPPORTED BY THE UN. THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES PRESENTLY ENJOYED BY THE TURNHALLE PROBABLY CANNOT BE FULLY ELIMINATED UNTIL THE TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION ENVISIONED BY THE CG IS INSTALLED AND THE GROUND RULES FOR A FREE ELECTORAL PROCESS ARE PUT INTO EFFECT.

4. THE ETHNIC TROOPS POSE A MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM.
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THE SAG CAN RIGHTLY ASSERT THAT THE CREATION OF THESE UNITS HAS BEEN GOING ON, AT LEAST IN OVAMBOLAND, FOR A YEAR AND NO OBJECTION HAS BEEN RAISED. NEVERTHELESS, THE CURRENT HASTENING AND EXPANSION OF THIS ACTIVITY HAS CHANGED THE CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE GROUND IN NAMIBIA AND IT HAS INTRODUCED A NEW CONTENTIOUS ELEMENT.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE NEW YORK CG INFORM SWAPO THAT THE QUESTION OF TURNHALLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITH SAG SUPPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN UP WITH THE SAG AND THE MATTER WILL BE PURSUED FURTHER WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS ALONG WITH THE ISSUE OF THE ETHNIC MILITARY UNITS. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES PRESENTLY ENJOYED BY THE TURNHALLE GROUP, SWAPO COULD BE REASSURED THAT A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE FIVE IS TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR AN ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES WILL BE COMPETING ON A COMPLETELY EQUAL BASIS.

6. WE BELIEVE THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AT LEAST WITH FOURIE AND PREFERABLY WITH BOTHA. AN

IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO WOULD BE DURING THE
CURRENT LONDON TALKS. IT IS RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER,
THAT THE OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS AT LONDON MIGHT WELL
MAKE IT TACTICALLY INADVISABLE TO BROACH THESE
MATTERS THERE. A DELAY UNTIL THE RETURN OF FOURIE AND
BOTH TO PRETORIA WOULD IN OUR VIEW BE ACCEPTABLE.
NELSON

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